

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein with the activity of an annexin or encoding a fragment of such a protein with the biological activity, which is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) nucleic acid molecules encoding a polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) nucleic acid molecules encoding a polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4;

(c) nucleic acid molecules comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(d) nucleic acid molecules comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(e) nucleic acid molecules that hybridize under stringent conditions to nucleic acid molecules of (a), (b), (c) or (d); and

(f) nucleic acid molecules that are degenerate to the nucleic acid molecules of any one of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).

2. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the encoded protein is an annexin related to the osmotic stress and abscisic acid (ABA) signaling.

3. Nucleic acid molecules according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

4. Nucleic acid molecules according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

5. A vector containing a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 3.

6. The vectors according to claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is ligated to regulatory elements of promoters, terminators and signals for polyadenylation, for the expression of the annexin in prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells.
7. A host cell which is stably transformed with a vector according to claim 6.
8. The host cell according to claim 7, wherein the host cell is the prokaryotic, fungal, plant or animal cell.
9. A transgenic plant which is transformed by the nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the reduction of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 is achieved by an antisense.
10. A transgenic plant which is transformed by the nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the increase of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 is achieved by a sense.
11. A transgenic plant according to claim 9, wherein said transgenic plant displays a decreased resistance to environmental stress.
12. A transgenic plant according to claim 10, wherein said transgenic plant displays an increased resistance to environmental stress.